Overtures begun in 1857 resulted in a resolution in 1872 to build a church in the Highland area of Howard County. St. Mark's was constructed in 1874, a one story Gothic revival white frame church three bays wide and four bays deep with a high pitched gable roof with open belfry crowned by a conical roof located at the apex of the south gable.

The building features a central Gothic wood paneled double door with gabled roof entrance portico supported by posts, Gothic stained glass lancet windows with green shutters and tiffany stained glass bull's eye above the

portico.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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NAME		- CONTENTAL PROPERTY	JEE SECTIONS	
HISTORIC St. Mark's	: Church			
AND/OR COMMON				
St. Mark's	Episcopal Church			
LOCATION		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
STREET & NUMBER Northwest	Corner of the Inters	ection of Md 216		
CITY, TOWN and H	alls Shop Road	cettar of Mi. 216	NOT FOR PUBLICATION	
Highland		. VICINITY OF	CONGRESSIONAL DISTR	RICT
STATE		CODE	COUNTY	CODE
Maryland		24	Howard	027
CLASSIFICA	ATION			
CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRES	ENT USE
DISTRICT	PUBLIC	X_OCCUPIED	AGRICULTURE	MUSEUM
XBUILDING(S)	XPRIVATE	UNOCCUPIED	COMMERCIAL	MOSEUM PARK
STRUCTURE	ВОТН	_WORK IN PROGRESS	EDUCATIONAL	PRIVATE RESIDEN
SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT	XRELIGIOUS
OBJECT	IN PROCESS	X_YES: RESTRICTED	GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC
	BEING CONSIDERED	YES: UNRESTRICTED	_INDUSTRIAL	···-
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OWNER OF		NO	MILITARY	OTHER:
NAME The Vestry Saint Mark's Pr STREET & NUMBER 12700 Hall's St	y of cotestant <u>Episcopal (</u>	no	MILITARY  E. Scheidt, Regist	_OTHER:
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CONDITION

CHECK ONE

**CHECK ONE** 

XEXCELLENT

\_\_FAIR

\_\_DETERIORATED
\_\_RUINS

\_\_UNEXPOSED

X\_UNALTERED

X\_ORIGINAL SITE

\_\_MOVED DATE\_\_\_

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Howard County is located on the northwest corner of the intersection of Maryland Route 216 and Hall's Shop Road. The cemetery is behind the church and a rectory stands on the southwest corner of the intersection. The latter, a new building, is not included in this nomination.

The church is a one-story carpenter Gothic structure three bays wide and four deep with a chancel extension on the north. A sacristy was added to the west side of the chancel. The roof is a steeply pitched gable that overhangs at either end; it is echoed by the roofs of the chancel and the entrance porch. The frame building is covered with board and batten siding and sits on a rubble stone foundation. It has a small belfry on the roof peak at the south end, and the brick furnace flue rises from the north end of the east slope of the roof.

The south facade has a central entrance flanked by two lancet windows. The door is a pointed arched one with two paneled leaves protected by a frame entrance porch with a tooden cross at its peak. The porch is supported by two chamfered posts and two pilasters decorated with scrolled brackets. The gable of the porch contains stick work; there are wooden railings on either side of the porch and a flight of five steps leads up to it.

The windows on either side of the door have double-hung stained glass sash and louvered lancet-shaped shutters. Above the entrance is a small round Tiffany window with a dove in it.

The east and west facades have four windows like those on the south: lancet with double-hung, stained glass sash and louvered shutters.

The chancel covers three-quarters of the north end of the church. Also board and batten sided, it has three narrow lancet windows in the north face. The central one is taller than the others; all three have double-hung, stained glass sash. The sacristy is a very low addition sided with board and batten and having a hipped roof. It has a stained glass window with louvered shutters on the north and a door sheltered by the overhanging roof on the south.

The nave of the church has a central aisle with the original fixed pews painted white with the trim unpainted on either side. Several pews face west from the front of the east side, between the congregation and the altar. The floor of the chancel is three steps above the floor of the nave. The ceiling of the chancel is arched; the chancel opening is framed with a wooden molding like that around the windows and is flanked by two plaster projections, one of which contains the furnace flue while the other is apparently decorative only for balance.

A parish house built in 1955 is situated to the east and behind the church. Built of cinder block and painted white, it is a low, I-shaped structure that does not detract from the appearance of the church.

The cemetery dates from the construction of the church and has been expanded several times (see history).

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DA				
ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY	about 3 acres,	comprising the chur	ch buildi	ing lot and the
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37072	CODE	COUNTY		CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY		CODE
<b>11</b> FORM PREPARED B	Y			
NAME/TITLE	• .			
Melvin E. Scheidt, R	egistrar		DATE	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
St. Mark's Church			Decembe	er 25, 1978
STREET & NUMBER			TELEPHONE	
Box 7			286-2628 STATE	<u> </u>
Highland, Maryland		M		20777
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NATIONAL	SIAII		LOCAL	<b>-</b>
As the designated State Historic Prese				
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citiena and procedures set form by the	e itational i aik service.			
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE	R SIGNATURE			
TITLE			DATE	
OR NPS USE ONLY				
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PR	OPERTY IS INCLUDED I	N THE NATIONAL REGISTI	A	
			DATE	
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL RI	EGISTER			
ATTEST:			DATE	
CHEF OF REGISTRATION				
•				

PERIOD	Al	REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	HECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	
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SPECIFIC DAT	res	BUILDER/ARCI	HITECT	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. Mark's Episcopal Church is Highland, Howard County, is a typical example of the small frame churches built in the rural areas of Maryland in the 1870's. These were not architect-designed structures, but the designs came from pattern books or from other nearby churches in this Carpenter Gothic style. St. Mar 's is one of the latter, supposedly inspired by an Episcopal Church near Ellicott City.

St. Mark's remains largely unaltered from its original appearance when built. Several additions have been made but they in no way obscure the church building. Other alterations, on the interior, are minimal and are the result of gifts to the church.

The church was constructed by the congregation and recognized by the Episcopal nurch at the request of the founding families, who were mostly farmers in the rea.

NOMINATION OF MARYLAND PROPERTIES TO THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORICAL PLACES Maryland Historical Trust Shaw House, 21 State Circle Annapolis, Maryland 21401 (301) 269-2438

Application Receipt/Return Sheet	HO-166
date rec'd  re: S1. Mark's Church  Aaward County	contents of package slides prints
submitted by:	form
proposed by Melvin E. Scheidt, Registrar St. Mark's	1978
PROBLEM AREAS	
MHT Historic Sites Inventory Form	
name of property	
location of property	
ownership	
description	
summary statement of significance (one paragraph) need to explain this bldg, should be listed on Reguster 4 educatify the shistorical and support information for significance	agrificant
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acreage	un of churches on NR
Y verbal boundary description	
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black and white photographs (properly labeled)	
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RECOMMENDATION	
retain form forreturn form for additionalnominationinformation and/or revisions	reject and why
otheraud	olles
date	

Steady progress was made thereafter toward completion of work on the church. The 12 by 14 foot recessed chancel was added, the 10 by 14 foot robing room attached, the front portico summounted by a cross, the church painted inside and out, and new walnut trimmed cypress pews to seat 120 persons installed. Bishop Pinckney gave the beautiful walnut altar now in the parish house, which had stood in the old church of the Ascension in Washington where he had at one time been rector. The triple stained glass window over the altar was given by a lady from a Baltimore parish. About half of the one-acre lot was laid off in lots and set apart under the supervision of a committee of the Vestry for a burial ground, enclosed by the barbed wire fence on iron posts set in granite which still surrounds it. In the fall of 1882, the church as it now stands was completed in all essential details and was all paid for. It stands as an excellent and pleasing example of what is called "Rural Gothic" or Carpenter Gothic. It was consecrated on November 30, 1883 by Bishop Paret, who succeeded Bishop Pinckney.

In 1890 Dr. Hutton submitted his resignation because of failing health. He died the following year, and the Rev. William Turner followed him as rector. In 1892 a rectory was built for him in Highland on the Dayton Road. This was in continual use until 1951, when it was sold.

From time to time through the years various improvements have been made to the church. Memorial stained glass windows were donated by several families. The belfry, the cushioned kneelers, the cross over the altar, communion and offering services, flower vases, baptismal font, pulpit, etc. are all memorial gifts made from time to time. Hardwood flooring and carpeting were installed. When electricity became available, the original kerosene lamps were left in place but converted to electric lights. When oil burners became available, a full cellar was dug under part of the church and a central heating furnace installed to replace the two wood burning stoves which had stood in the Northwest and Northeast corners of the church. Other minor improvements, such as installing running water in the vestment room, were added. But the basis structure of the church remains essentially unaltered.

Additional parcels of land were donated by Samuel Harding in 1881 and 1898, Mr. Pue again in 1913, and Mr. & Mrs. Scheidt in 1957. The church grounds now total about three acres. In 1954 Mrs. Myerly provided the funds for the construction of the parish hall in memory of her husband. In 1958 or thereabouts, the church purchased the half acre lot opposite the church at the southwest corner of the road intersection, and in 1960 purchased the one acre tract adjacent to it on the South. In 1964 Mrs. Mary Clark Dorsey bequeathed funds and securities which permitted the church to construct on this lot a modern rectory as well as to establish a capital fund, the income from which helps support the church. On this point it should be noted that in former years the church owned a frame cottage on Highland Road just west of the Highland crossroads, which it used as a rectory. The house was without modern conveniences of any kind, and since Christ Church also had a rectory and was now sharing pastors with St. Mark's, it became expedient to dispose of this house. Part of the land was sold in 1947, and the house in 1951.

With the receipt of the Dorsey bequest, St. Mark's felt that after many years it was finally in a position to operate fully on its own. Negotiations were therefore entered into with Christ Church looking toward each church having its own full time rector. These negotiations were completed toward the end of 1964, and St. Mark's first full-time rector took office in February 1965.

In 1972 a new electric organ was purchased for the church with funds from the Dorsey bequest.

St. Mark's started as a strictly rural church serving a farming community, and remained such until about the beginning of the second World War. The area surrounding the church is still rural to a considerable degree, with a number of farms still operating. But the congregation can no longer be said to be that of a farming community. Only a very few of the original founding farm families are still members, and only one or two of these are actually farming. Most of the church members are relatively new residents in the area — that is, since the war. Among them are professional people, skilled workmen, business and clerical people, government employees, teachers, and others, most of whom commute some distance each day to places of employment.

Since its founding, the congregation of St. Mark's has remained about the same size. Recent developments in the county point toward an imminent increase, especially of younger families with children, a number of whom have joined the congregation in the last several years. With the advent of the new town of Columbia in 1968, the county is rapidly becoming urbanized. Thus, while the immediate surroundings of the church are zoned in such manner as to insure relatively sparse development for many years, the impact of Columbia and other subdivions not too distant will double the county population in the next 10 to 15 years. St. Mark's can therefore look forward to a substantial increase in communicants. Meantime the general atmosphere of the church remains that of a friendly, small town, almost family group.

Compiled for the Centennial Celebration of the Building of the Church, November 17, 1974, by Melvin E. Scheidt

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

## NOMINATION FORM

for the NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

COMMON:					
St. Mark's Epis	copal Churc	h		· .	
AND/OR HISTORIC:					
12700 Hall Shop	Road				
2. LOCATION		•			
12700 Hall Shop R	Road				
CITY OR TOWN:					
Highland	·	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
Maryland		COUN	τν: ard County		
		1 I I I I	ara ocurrey		
3. CLASSIFICATION					ACCESSIBLE
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS	TO THE PUBLIC
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	☐ Both	Being Consid		servatian work	
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PRESENT USE (Check One or Me	ore se Anneonelete)				
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4. OWNER OF PROPERTY					
OWNER'S NAME:  Vestry of St. Mark	<s< td=""><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></s<>				
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Vestry of St. Mark street and number: 12700 Hall Shop Ro					
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	Excellent	☐ Good	☐ Fair	☐ Deterior	_	Ruins	☐ ·Unex	posed
CONDITION		(Check C	One) .			(Çhe	ck One)	
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ESCRIBE THE PE	RESENT ! ID OR	IGINAL (II k	nown) PHYSICA	L APPEARAN	CE			
This	wooden str	ucture i	s located	on the s	outh w	est cor	ner of	the in-
tersection								
Gothic rev								
pitched gal	ble roof. \	with ope	n belfry	crowned b	y a co	nicalr	oof loc	ated at
the apex o	f the sout	h gable.	Gabled a	nd hip ro	ofed a	ppendag	es are	located
on the wes	t wall to s	serve as	the sacr	isty. A d	overed	entrar	ice doo <mark>r</mark>	is lo-
cated on t	he south wa	111 of th	he append	age.				
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PERIOD (Check One or More se	Appropriate)		
☐ Pre-Calumbian	☐ 16th Century	18th Century	20th Century
15th Century	☐ 17th Century	∑ 19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicab	le and Known) 18/4		
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Che	ck One or More as Appropri	nto)	• .
Abar iginal	☐ Education	☐ Palitical	🕒 🔃 Urban Planning 🕦
☐ Prehistoric	Engineering	Religian/Phi-	Other (Specify)
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Agriculture .	☐ Invention	Science	<del></del>
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Commerce	Literature	itarian	
Communications	☐ Military	☐ Theater	
Conservation	. Music	☐ Transpartotian	

The area of significance of this building lies in its architecture. According to Mrs. Marshall T. Harding in her mimeographed paper, "A history of St. Mark's Church, Queen Caroline Parish", the church was built in 1874. Constructed of wood in the three bay, central entrance plan, the church is representative of a major architectural group: i.e. the little country gothic church. Churches of this kind were in use in Howard County from the early 19th century. The church has received little alteration and retains almost all of its original work. By 1882, chancel and vestry room and the south portico had been added as well as a triple stained glass window over the alter.

Approximately half of the church yard was laid off in lots and set apart as a burial ground, which has been enlarged four times. In 1955the parish house was constructed, which can serve as a meeting house for the community.

The leaders of the community were very often the leaders of the church. An examination of the composition of the vestry reveals this fact. It is difficult to access the humanitarian out reach of St. Marks

Located on land which was once a part of Snowden's Third Addition of the Manor

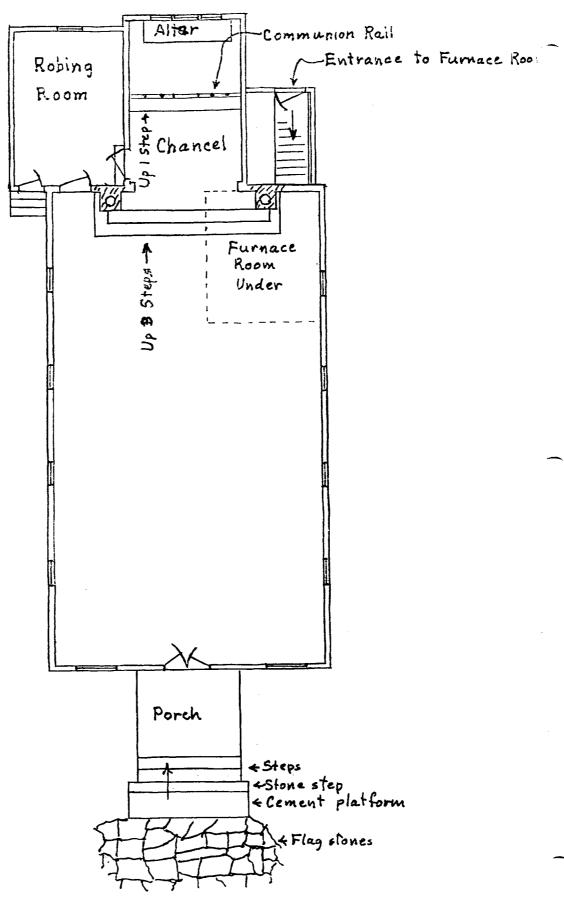
St. Marks significance inherently lies in the area of religion. Christ Church, Quilford was the first episcopal church in Howard County, then the upper part of Ann Arundel. It served the district as a Chapel of Ease for St. Anne's Church, Annapolis. As the population in upper Arundel increased there was pressure to create another parish, separate and apart from Queen Anne's Parish, Annapolis. The old Brick Church became Christ Church, mother church of Queen Caroline Parish and as population centers developed in loward County, Chapels of Ease such as St. Marks and St. John's were created

The importance of the church in the early days of Maryland lay not only n the field of religion but in the social and humanitariam fields. The church erved as a social focal point and the vestry as a kind of governing body or the community. Improper social behavior was consored and injunctions ssued against individuals for improper behavior.

9. MAJOR	BIBLIOGR/	APHICAL RE	FERENCES	•					
*Chris	st Churc	ch, Quilfo	الاestry N	lotes	11				
						St. Mark's Ch			
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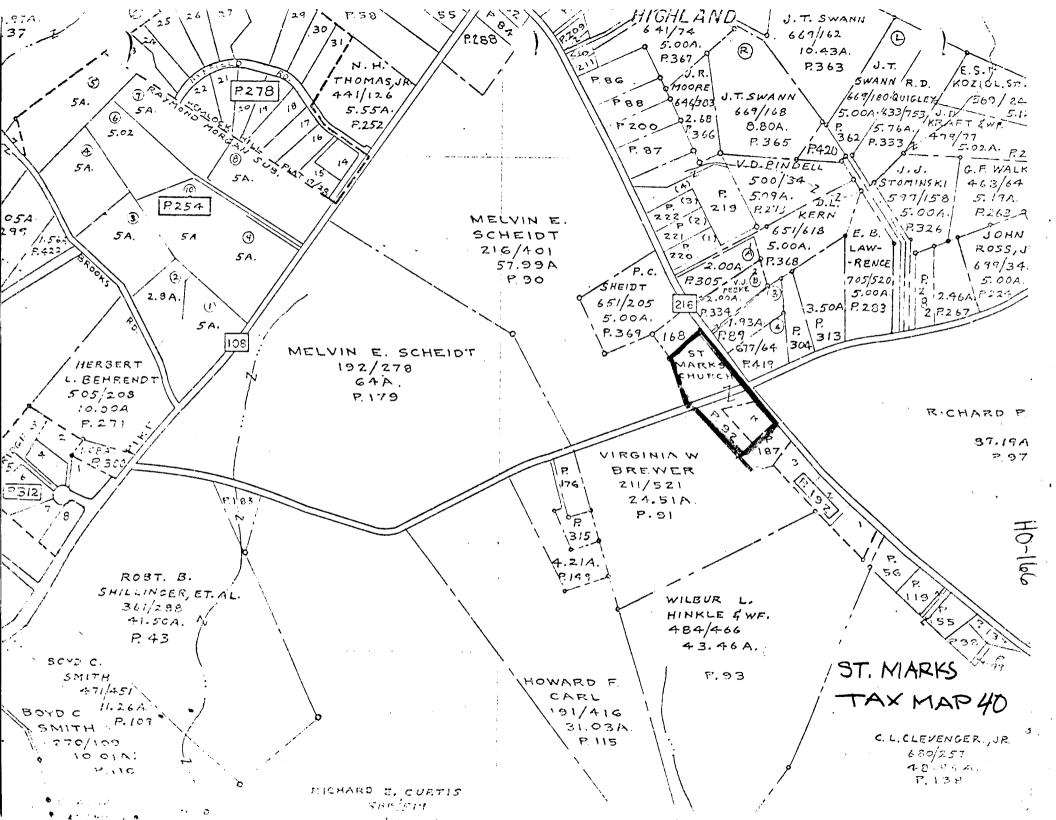
## Significance - Continued

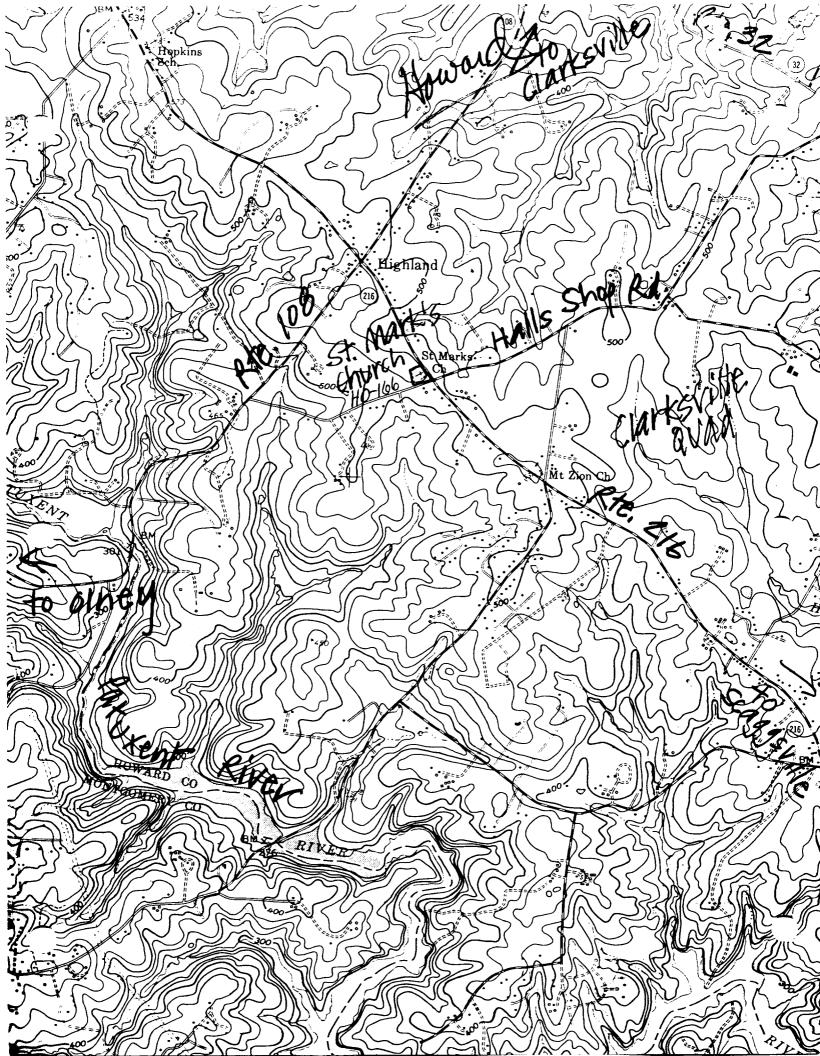
As early as 1857 residents of this area of Howard County desired a church. On September 15, 1872 a service was held in the woods of Mr. Simpson by the Reverend Thomas Duncan, Rector of St. Bartholomews Episcopal Church, Montgomery County. The meeting which followed resulted in a resolution to build a new church here and a donation of one acre of land was made, whose deed was executed in September 1873.



SAINT MARKS EPISCOPAL CHURCH HIGHLAND, HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND

Scale - 1 inch = 1 ft.







Ho 166

4300

St Mark's Church SE Mar72



ST MARK'S

DIST. 5 HO-166 ST. MARKS ABTHOMPSON



HO-166

It Marks Episcopal Church View of S. and East faces looking M. # W.

Pecumber, 1978



At. Marko Episcopal Church View of East Face, looking N. W.

December 1978